

1 CLAIMS

2 What is claimed is:

3 1. A material having superior color-fast properties comprising a first component  
4 with substantial stretch properties and a second component with substantially lower  
5 stretch properties than those of the first component wherein the material is a fabric  
6 manufactured by knitting, weaving, non-woven or other fabric manufacturing process and  
7 the components are dyed prior to fabric formation for providing a material having a  
8 color-fastness and color-uniformity in both stretched and relaxed states.

9 2. The material according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the components is  
10 solution dyed.

11 3. The material according to claim 1, wherein both of the components are solution  
12 dyed.

13 4. The material according to claim 1, wherein the material is a warp-knitted fabric.

14 5. The material according to claim 1, wherein the material is a weft-knitted fabric.

15 6. The material according to claim 1, wherein the components are dyed separately.

16 7. The material according to claim 1, wherein the second component is synthetic.

17 8. The material according to claim 7, wherein the second component is polyester.

18 9. The material according to claim 1, wherein the components comprise solution  
19 dyed thermal heat settable synthetic continuous filament yarns selected from a group  
20 consisting of Polyamide (Nylon), Polyester, Olefin (Polypropylene), Spandex, and the  
21 like, and combinations thereof.

1    10. The material according to claim 1, wherein the material includes additives to  
2    provide performance properties including anti-bacterial, hydrophylllic, hydrophobic,  
3    resistance to chlorine, quick drying, and combinations thereof.

4    11. A material having superior color-fast properties comprising a first elastomeric  
5    component and a second substantially non-elastomeric component  
6    wherein the material is a fabric formed by interconnecting the first and second  
7    components; and  
8    wherein the second component is solution-dyed prior to fabric formation thereby  
9    providing a material having a color-fastness and color-uniformity in both stretched and  
10   relaxed states.

11   12. The material according to claim 11, wherein the first elastomeric stretch  
12   component is solution-dyed.

13   13. The material according to claim 11, wherein the components comprise solution  
14   dyed thermal heat settable synthetic continuous filament yarns selected from a group  
15   consisting of Polyamide (Nylon), Polyester, Olefin (Polypropylene), Spandex, and the  
16   like, and combinations thereof.

17   14. A method of making the color-fast material comprising the steps of:  
18   providing a first yarn component and a second yarn component for inclusion in a fabric;  
19   treating the yarn components separately, such as by dyeing at least one of the  
20   components;  
21   fabricating a material from the yarn components, wherein the material has superior color-  
22   fast properties, the first component having substantial stretch properties and the second  
23   component having substantially lower stretch properties than those of the first

1 component, thereby providing a material having a color-fastness and color-uniformity in  
2 both stretched and relaxed states.

3 15. The method according to claim 14; wherein the step of fabricating a material  
4 includes manufacturing by knitting, weaving, non-woven or other fabric manufacturing  
5 process.

6 16. The method according to claim 14, further including the steps of scouring the  
7 fabric and/or treating the fabric.

8 17. The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of treating the fabric includes  
9 applying a finish for enhanced fabric performance.

10 18. The method according to claim 17, wherein the finish includes anti-microbial,  
11 stain resistant, water resistant, water repellent, wicking agents and/or treatments, and  
12 combinations thereof.

13 19. The method according to claim 14, further including the steps of fabric processing  
14 including garment manufacturing or any steps in preparation therefor.

15